[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : The dispensaries being run in Delhi under the Central Government Health Scheme also include the Ayurvedic dispensaries. Your department purchases drugs for Ayurvedic dispensaries on 30 to 50 percent commission and the drugs purchased in this manner are of low and inferior quality which is why they are not very effective in the treatment of diseases. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether he has received any such complaints ? If so whether any committee has been set up to look into these complaints and such complaints have been referred to it ? Just now you were speaking about the constitution of a Committee. Similarly, whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure that Ayurvedic medicines are purchased in a proper manner and superior quality drugs are purchased ? If any steps have been taken in this regard, the House should be apprised of them.

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : I have not received any such complaint but so far as the Ayurvedic and Unani medicines are concerned, I am fully aware of their importance and I have taken certain steps also. For the very first time in these fifty years, I convened a Conference of Ayurvedic and Unani Specialists on 19th under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and stated therein that we have to discuss the Ayurvedic, Unani, Siddha or Naturopathy systems of medicines and promote them not only in the C.G.H.S. Dispensaries but also on All India level. A scheme is being evolved in this regard. There are 6 lakh Ayurvedic and Unani practitioners enlisted with us and we wish to involve them not only in this scheme but also in our Family Welfare Programmes on All India level.

So far as the question of taking it up right now is concerned, the Ayurvedic and Unani doctors are attending the C.G.H.S. dispensaries and we are making efforts to increase the number of doctors of these systems of medicines.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Please tell us about the purchase of sub standard drugs.

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : Yes, Sir, I am coming to that. I have asked the Drug Controller of India to augment the quality control of drugs. We are trying to set up a Committee with regard to the Ayurvedic and Unani medicines which would submit its report. Whichever committees are being set up are not being given long a time to make reports. I am giving them only three months or maximum six months to submit their reports.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Not only in the CGHS dispensaries but elsewhere also, some medical practitioners, although they do practice allopathic system of medicine, do recommend certain ayurvedic products. What has happened every recently is, the multinational companies have obtained a judgement from a court on the basis of which there is a directive that practitioners of allopathy can prescribe only allopathic medicines and if they do prescribe even products like a laxative of the ayurvedic system, they may be liable to be punished. The multinational companies throughout the country, through their sales agents, are intimidating the producers of ayurvedic drugs.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government's attention has been drawn to this latest issue; and if so, what steps do the Government purpose to take to ensure that the interests of six lakh practitioners of ayurveda and practitioners of allopathy prescribing ayurvedic medicines are not punished as is being proposed ?

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : I am not very sure about it. But as I know, this was a single bench decision which has gone in front of a three-member bench. The decision is still awaited. We are monitoring it at the Supreme Court level. As soon as we get a directive, we will be taking action on that.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to whether the Government is formulating any scheme with regard to standardisation and packaging of Ayurvedic and Unani medicines so as to make them acceptable at international level.

Secondly, I would like to submit that a number of Ayurvedic drugs have medicinal properties which are being patented by foreigners and because of which the manufacturers and producers of the Ayurvedic drugs are facing obstacles as a result of which our country has to bear a huge loss. Hence, would the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to what steps the Government propose to take with regard to both these issues.

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Member has raised this question and in this regard, as I told you earlier, we held a meeting in Delhi five days ago wherein the Health Ministers of various states had highlighted this very aspect. We passed a Resolution in that meeting and took a decision that a pharmacopia of Ayurvedic and Unani medicines should be prepared as per a time bound programme. At the moment, I am not aware about the time limit fixed for the purpose. I will inform you about it later. When this pharmacopia is prepared, we will take steps to get our medicines patented. A number of our medicines are being used in foreign countries and we are not getting any benefit out of it. After getting them patented, we will start getting benefits thereof.

[English]

Water Sharing Agreement Between India and Bangladesh

*26. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether in course of recently concluded agreement on water sharing between India and Bangladesh from Farakka Barrage, any specific assurance was given to West Bengal Government by the Union Government for Sankosh Project of Bhutan to benefit West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the issue was raised between West Bengal Government and the Union Government during the talk;

(d) whether Bihar Government have refused to ensure additional water flow to down stream Farakka in the recent talks with West Bengal Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The West Bengal Government had approached the Centre for taking effective time bound steps for augmenting the availability of water upstream of the Farakka Barrage during the lean season. In this regard reference was made to Sankosh Multipurpose Project. The Government of India had intimated Government of West Bengal that there is more than one option for augmentation of water at Farakka. A quick study will be made of all these options with special emphasis upon the Sankosh Project, and the best option would be finalised in consultation with all relevant parties. This project, as soon as it is finalised, would be taken for implementation in the IX Five Year Plan.

(d) and (e) The Government of Bihar had conveyed apprehensions to Government of India, on the Treaty coupled with increased upstream utilisation which may lead to shortage of water in Bihar.

[English]

Sharing of Ganga Water with Bangladesh

*36. SHRI A.C. JOS :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have recently entered into any agreement regarding distribution of Ganga river water;

(b) if so, the main terms and conditions thereof;

(c) whether a Joint Committee has been constituted for implementation of the said agreement; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said committee is likely to submit its report ?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Treaty on sharing of Ganga waters at Farakka was signed between India and Bangladesh on 12th December, 1996. The main terms and conditions of the Treaty are :—

1. The Treaty remains in force for a period of 30 years and it shall be renewable on the basis of mutual consent.
2. The sharing arrangement under the Treaty shall be reviewed by the two Governments at Five years interval or earlier as required by either party and needed adjustments, based on principles of equity, fairness and no harm to either party made thereto, if necessary. It would be open to either party to seek the first review after two years to assess the impact and working of the sharing arrangement.
3. The sharing of the Ganga/Ganges waters at Farakka by ten day periods from the Ist January to 31st May every year will be with reference to formula at Annexure-I and an indicative schedule giving the implications of the sharing arrangement under Annexure-I is at Annexure-II.
4. In the event flow at Farakka falls below 50,000 cusecs in any 10-day periods, the two governments will enter into immediate consultations to make adjustments on an emergency basis.
5. A Joint Committee shall be constituted which shall set up suitable teams at Farakka and Hardinge Bridge to observe and record at Farakka daily flows below Farakka Barrage, in the feeder canal, and at the navigation lock, as well as at the Hardinge Bridge.

(c) and (d) A Joint Committee as per article IV of the Treaty has been set up. This Committee has set up Joint teams for discharge observations of daily flows at Farakka on the Ganga, in the Feeder canal and in the navigations lock from Ist of January, 1997. A Joint Team has also been set up at Hardinge Bridge in Bangladesh for joint observations. The Annual Report incorporating the data collected shall be submitted after the joint observations are completed in May every year.